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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 132253 ACTION LONDON KUWAIT INFO SANAA JIDDA
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QUOTE

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TAGS: YS, CASC

SUBJECT: US CITIZENS IMPRISONED IN ADEN: VINCENT TORHAN,
ROBERT KOPP

KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD IN JUNE 7 POUCH

1. FBIS REPORT NUMBER 49, JUNE 4, QUOTES FROM RADIO
BAGHDAD, REPORTING FROM ADEN, AS FOLLOWS: "(EXCERPT)
ADEN, 4 JUNE--IT WAS REPORTED HERE TODAY THAT PERSONS
INVOLVED IN IMPORTANT CASES OF ESPIONAGE AGAINST THE PDY
WILL BE BROUGHT TO COURT SOON. THE OFFICIAL "14
OCTOBER" NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT AMONG THE ACCUSED IN
THESE CASES ARE US CITIZENS (ROBERT COOP) AND (VINCENT
NORHAN) AND OTHER N.C.R. COMPANY AGENTS. THE PAPER ADDED
THAT COMPLETE DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED DURING THE TRIAL."

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2. THIS IS FIRST CONFIRMATION, IF ACCURATE, FROM ADENI AUTHORITIES THAT ROBERT KOPP IS IN FACT IN JAIL IN ADEN. HERETOFORE WE HAVE HAD ONLY CIRCUMSTANTIAL AND SECOND-HAND INFORMATION TO THIS EFFECT. ALLEGATION THAT TORHAN AND KOPP WERE ASSOCIATED WITH "N.C.R." (WE ASSUME TO MEAN NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY) IS COMPLETE SURPRISE. PDRY EARLIER ALLEGATION WAS THAT TORHAN WAS SPYING FOR CIA. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NEITHER TORHAN NOR KOPP HAVE EVER BEEN

ASSOCIATED WITH N.C.R. AND WE HAVE CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT EITHER MAN HAS EVER BEEN IN EMPLOY OF THE US GOVERNMENT OR WORKED FOR CIA. IT MAY BE THAT RADIO BAGHDAD AND/OR ADENI AUTHORITIES ARE CONFUSING TORHAN AND KOPP CASES WITH ANOTHER CASE, THAT OF LEBANESE CITIZEN VICTOR DICK, AN NCR OFFICER WHO WAS ARRESTED IN ADEN LATE IN 1974 AND ACCUSEF OF ESPIONAGE.

3. UK EMBUSSY HERE JUNE 5 SAYS CABLE FROM UK EMBASSY ADEN REPORTING THAT ADENI NEWSPAPER OF JUNE 4 (POSSIBLY SAME SOURCE AS BAGHDAD RADIO REPORT) STATES THAT LEXANESE CITIZEN VICTOR DICK (WHO IS N.C.R. EMPLOYEE) WILL ALSO BS BROUGHT TO TRIAL. TRIAL OR TRIALS TO TAKE PLACE "DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS6.

4. UK EMBASSY SAYS PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER MUTI HAD TALKS IN LONDON MAY 29 WITH LORD GRONWY ROBERTS OF FCO AND OTHERS. AMONG NUMEROUS ISSUES DISCUSSED, QUEUTION OF AMERICAN (AND BRITISH) PRISONERS IN ADEN WAS DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS. MUTI SAID "THERE WERE CASES AGAINST THE PRISONERS". MUTI ALSO SAID HMG COULD COMMUNICATE WITH PDRY ON SUBJECT OF PRISONERS THROUGH PDRY AMBASSADOR IN LONDON.

5. FOR ALL ADDRESSEES: WE WISH TO BE AS LOW-KEY AS POSSIBLE, LEST UNDUE PUBLICITY JEOPARDIZE CHANCES OF RELEASE OF TORHAN AND KOPP. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING IS DEPT. PRESS GUIDANCE WHICH YOU MAY DRAW UPON IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES:

Q. WHAT IS THE STORY ABOUT TWO US CITIZENS BEING TRIED
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FOR ESPIONAGE IN ADEN?

A. IN MARCH 1973, A US CITIZEN, VINCENT TORHAN (MISSPELLED AS NORHAN IN FBIS), A MEDICAL TECHNICIAN, AGE ABOUT 55, FROM SUMMIT, NEW JERSEY, VISITED ADEN IN THE PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMFN OR SOUTH YEMEN. HE IS A COIN COLLECTOR -- A HOBBY HE HAS PURSUED FOR MANY YEARS. WHILE IN ADEN, HE WAS ARRESTED BY THE AUTHORITIES AND

ACCUSED OF ESPIONAGE. SINCE THAT TIME (MARCH 1973) HE HAS BEEN HELD PRISONER, BUT WITHOUT ACCESS TO CONSULAR REPRESENTATION WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE VISIT BY A BRITISH CONSULAR OFFICER LAST NOVEMBER. (THE US DOES NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PDRY; THE UK IS OUR "PROTECTING POWER"). HE WAS NOT ALLOWED LEGAL COUNSEL. HE WAS NOT ALLOWED TO CORRESPOND WITH HIS WIFE OR FAMILY. THE EXACT CHARGES AGAINST HIM WERE NEVER MADE CLEAR.

NUMEROUS EFFORTS ON HIS BEHALF THROUGH THE UK EMBASSY IN ADEN, THE PDRY UN REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK, THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, BOTH BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND MR. TORHAN'S FAMILY, WERE UNAVAILING, EXCEPT TO ELICIT VAGUE STATEMENTS BY PDRY AUTHORITIES TO THE EFFECT THAT MR9 TORHAN WOULD BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL "SOON".

IN THE CASE OF ROBERT KOPP (MISSPELT AS "COOP" IN FBIS REPORT), HE IS 36 AND FROM SAN FRANCISCO. WE BELIEVE HE WENT TO ADEN IN JANUARY 1974 BUT HE THEN DISAPPEARED. ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVED, FROM LETTERS HE SENT EARLIER TO RELATIVES IN THE USN THAT HE WAS PROBABLY IN ADEN AND POSSIBLY IN JAIL -- ALSO ON CHARGES OF ESPIONAGE, WHICH WE DENY 7- WE NEVER HAD CONFIRMATION OF THIS UNTIL THE JUNE 4 RADIO REPORT FROM BAGHDAD.

TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NEITHER MR. TORHAN NOR MR. KOPP WERE EVER ASSOCIATED WITH THE NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY.

THE US GOVERNMENT MADE SEVERAL INQUIRIES OF THE PDRY THROUGH THE BRITISH EMBASSY ABOUT MR. KOPP'S WHEREABOUTS -- TO VERIFY WHETHER HE WAS IN ADEN AND POSSIBLY IN CUSTODY. WE RECEIVED NO CLEAR ANSWER, NOR ANY INDICATION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNTIL THE RECENT REPORT.

THE RECENT REPORT TENDS TO CONFIRM THAT MR. KOPP IN FACT IS IN ADEN. IT ALSO INDICATES THAT BOTH MEN WILL SOON BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL. THIS IS A WELCOME DEVELOPMENT, INsofar AS IT SUGGESTS THAT AT LAST THE ADENI AUTHORITIES HAVE DECIDED TO ACT ON THE TWO CASES. WE HOPE THAT THE TWO MEN WILL BE ALLOWED TO BE REPRESENTED BY COMPETENT LEGAL COUNSEL AT THE TRIAL OR TRIALS, AND THAT THE JUDICIAL PROCESS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN A FAIR AND OPEN MANNER.

Q. WERE THESE MEN CONDUCTING ESPIONAGE ON BEHALF OF THE USG?

A. NO.

Q. DO THEY HAVE ANY CONNECTION WITH THE USG?

A. NO, THEY HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH THE USG.

Q. WHY DO WE NOT HAVE RELATIONS WITH THE PDRY?

A. THE PDRY BROKE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE USG IN NOVEMBER 1969. OUR POSITION WAS THEN, AND REMAINS -- AS WE HAVE TOLD THEM FREQUENTLY -- THAT THE UNITED STATES

IS PREPARED TO REESTABLISH THE TIES WITHOUT CONDITIONS WHENEVER THE PDRY IS READY.

Q. WHY WERE RELATIONS BROKEN?

A. THAT IS OLD HISTORY NOW. YOU REALLY SHOULD ASK THE PDRY AUTHORITIES (IN NEW YORK).

6. FOR LONDON: YOU MAY WISH FOLLOW-UP ON THIS WITH FCO AND ADVISE DEPT.

7. FOR BAGHDAD: ANY CLARIFICATION AND FURTHER DETAILS YOU MIGHT OBTAIN WOULD BE APPRECIATED. KISSINGER

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